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Aspin bill seeks notice of covert CIA operations

Washington (AP)—The CIA would be forced to tell Congress before launching undercover operations—even those limited to simply gathering information—under legislation proposed yesterday by Representative Les Aspin (D, Wis.).

Bills already pending would require prior notice for "covert operations"—those aimed at actually interfering in occurrences in other nations.

But Mr. Aspin said his bill, which he planned to introduce today, also would cover "major intelligence-collection actions since they can pose serious political problems if exposed as, for example, in the case of the U-2 spy plane flights over Russia."

Mr. Aspin unveiled his bill one day before the House Intelligence Committee was scheduled to hear from the Central Intelligence Agency's director, Adm. Stansfield Turner, on other proposals aimed at freeing U.S. spy agencies from various restraints.

Admiral Turner already has told the Senate Intelligence Committee that he and President Carter will fight a pro-

posed Senate "CIA charter" provision requiring prior notice—at least to congressional leaders—before big or risky covert operations.

Mr. Aspin, who is a member of the House Intelligence Committee, is one of a number of congressmen who maintain the CIA already is required to give such notice. The CIA, Admiral Turner made clear, does not agree.

The proposed charter and numerous other bills also aim to meet specific CIA requests: Ordering criminal penalties for people who identify secret agents, cutting down the number of congressional committees to which the agency reports and freeing it from many of the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act.

Mr. Aspin said his bill walks the line between congressmen who want to "unleash" the CIA from nearly all restraints and those who are most concerned with assuring "the public that it will be protected from molestation by agencies that cannot by definition operate in public."